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DAVENTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

By: Alfred R. Darley, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Glenariff House,
West Haddon,
RUGBY.

To The Rural District Council of Daventry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report, dealing with the Sanitary conditions, and the Health of the Daventry Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

Owing to the war, this Report will be very much shortened, and confined to essential matters in connection with the health of the District.

AREA. The Area of the Rural District is 79,423 acres.

POPULATION.

The population of the District, according to the census of 1931 was 16,016.

The Registrar-General estimates that the population of the District in 1940 was 15,550, and I am assuming that these figures are correct for the working out of the Statistics of this Annual Report.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses whether occupied or not, by the census of 1931 was 4,681.

The number of inhabited houses in the Rural District at the end of the year 1940, according to the Rate Books was 4,625.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS.

The number of families or separate occupiers, according to the census of 1931 was 4,501.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value of the District on December 31st, 1940 was £76,995.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.

The sum represented by a penny rate is estimated to produce the sum of £311 for the financial year 1940-41.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of living births registered in the District was 198; Males 96, Females 102; of these two males and one female were illegitimate.

These figures give a Birth Rate for the whole District of 12.73 per 1,000 living, which is 1.87 per 1,000 below the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1940.

In addition to the living births there were two still-births registered, both females, and both legitimate.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered at all ages for the District was 212; Males 108, Females 104; this gives a Death Rate for the District of 13.63 per 1,000, which is 0.67 per 1,000 below the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1940.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were eight deaths of Infants under one year, six males and two females, all these were legitimate.

This gives an Infant Mortality of 37.73 per 1,000 births, and is quite satisfactory.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.12 per 1,000, and from Respiratory Diseases it was 1.80 for the year 1940, the former is lower than usual and the latter higher chiefly due to the deaths from Bronchitis.

MORTALITY.

The following table shows the different causes of death for each person belonging to the Daventry Rural District for the year 1940, according to the return made to me by the Registrar General:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	1	1
Other Tuberculosis.	0	1
Syphilitic Diseases.	1	0
Influenza.	3	3
Measles.	1	0
Cancer of Cav. Asoph. Uterus.	4	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	2
Cancer of Breast.	0	3
Cancer of Other Sites.	11	7
Diabetes.	1	0
Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions.	14	9
Heart Disease.	23	29
Other Circulatory Diseases.	1	1
Bronchitis.	7	9
Pneumonia.	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	2	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	1	1
Appendicitis.	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases.	1	6
Nephritis.	6	4
Premature Birth.	2	0
Congenital Causes.	2	1
Suicide.	2	0
Road traffic accidents.	1	0
Other Violent Causes.	1	4
All other Causes.	13	16
Total	<u>108</u>	<u>104</u>

NURSING.

The Health Visiting and District Nursing arrangements are under the management of the County Council, and have proved efficient throughout the District, there are several District Nurses residing in the larger Parishes. There are Child Welfare Centres at Ryfield and Long Buckby, these are also in the hands of the County Council.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During the year 1940 there was an increase in the cases of Infectious sickness reported to me, with an extensive outbreak of Measles throughout the whole District, fortunately these were all of a mild type. No death occurred from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Whooping Cough, and out of the large number of measles cases only one proved fatal, all the Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases were moved to Hospital.

The number of cases notified as stated by the Registrar-General are as follows:- Scarlet Fever, 31, Whooping Cough 6, Diphtheria 5, Erysipelas 5, Measles 490, Pneumonia 5, and Puerperal Pyrexia 2.

In addition to above there were 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and no case of Other Tuberculosis notified to me.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient, and no action or proceedings were necessary for wilful neglect. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, this disease in any particular part of the District. Special attention is always paid to Tubercular cases, not only on behalf of the sufferers themselves, but also for the sake of the other members of the families.

The following are the particulars as required by the Ministry of Health:

Age Under.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	5	2	2	1	1	0	1

SCHOOLS.

The School Buildings are in a satisfactory state, and the lavatory accommodation is sufficient and is kept quite clean, I received no complaint during the year regarding the sanitary condition of any school; notwithstanding the outbreak of measles throughout the District, and the resulting poor attendance, I did not advise the closing of any School.



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ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were moved to Staverton Isolation Hospital, or other Isolation Hospital in the County, all these cases recovered. They were fetched from their homes by the Ambulance, kept at the Hospital with the Matron or a Nurse in charge.

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out whenever necessary by the County Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 1, and also by the Pathologist, General Hospital, Northampton, and these arrangements have proved quite satisfactory.

For non-infectious Sickness the District is within easy distance of the General Hospital, Northampton, or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, and for Tuberculosis cases there is a Sanatorium at Rushden, under the Northamptonshire County Council. There is an Ambulance stationed in Daventry for the removal of non infectious patients or accidents to either the Northampton Hospital or the one in Rugby.

WATER SUPPLY.

The different Public Water supply schemes which were established in the District before the beginning of the war worked satisfactorily during the year, and gave a good supply of water to a large number of the Parishes.

The Public Supply for the village of Staverton was completed towards the end of the year, and the Parish now has a pure and plentiful supply of water.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The drainage of the District is fair, and in some Parishes with water supplies good.

The Long Buckby Scheme has been completed.

Several other Schemes which had been begun, or were under consideration when the war started, have been postponed until peace is established.

HOUSES.

Little could be done in this section of the work during the year, there was great difficulty in obtaining workmen, and all repairs were very costly, however any complaint received was attended to at once, and if your officials noticed any roofs wanting attention, or gutter leaking, the matter was taken up with the owner without delay. There were some cases of overloading and these were attended to as far as circumstances would permit.

MILK SUPPLY.

Frequent visits were paid during the year to the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the District, not only as a matter of routine, but also unexpected surprise visits, as a rule on these inspections things were found in a clean and satisfactory condition, this supports my opinion that the milk supply of the area is quite satisfactory. The Registers are attended to and kept up to date.

FOOD.

The Food of the District was good and under war conditions as satisfactory as could be expected. The Butchers were careful, and when they had any doubts regarding a carcase of a beast they always called in the Sanitary Inspector, and acted on his advice, even to voluntary surrender and destruction.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

A careful watch was kept on the Factories in the District throughout the year under the Factories Act of 1937, and this also applies to the outworkers, but these are few in a Rural District which is almost entirely given up to agriculture.

The Visit to the Factories showed that the general conditions were in a fair state and everything kept clean, visits were also paid to the shops in the District, and those who were employed therein, some places when the need of whitewashing was noticed were rectified as soon as attention was drawn to them; on the whole every endeavour is made to carry out the various sections of the Act.

There are no underground Bakchouses in the Area, and care was taken to see that all the Bakers kept their Bakchouses in a properly clean state. The register is attended to and kept up to date.

STAFF.

The Public Health Officers of the Council at the end of the past year were:

GERALD B. SAINT, Clerk to the Council.

ALFRED R. DARLEY, Medical Officer of Health.

WILFRED C. CHILDS, Public Health Surveyor.

HERBERT KIRTON, Sanitary Inspector.

All these are full-time officers except myself.

I append the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article XX. (16) of the Local Government Board's General Order of 13th December, 1910.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED R. DARLEY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health, Rural District
of Daventry.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DAVENTRY.
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the year ending 31st December, 1940.

A. R. Darley, Esq., M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work carried out in the Daventry Rural District, during the year 1940.

GENERAL.

It will be observed that my report is general in character and does not give complete details as in former years. This is in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health that reports be reduced to the necessary minimum.

Visits of inspection and re-inspection in the district have been made throughout the year as far as practicable. All notices have been complied with and such nuisances as were observed have been abated.

WATER SUPPLIES.

24 of the parishes of the district are now supplied by public water supplies which through the year have proved good and adequate.

Regular monthly analysis of the Council's water supplies have been made. Also many samples from other sources have been analysed and appropriate action taken where found necessary. With a far greater consumption of water taking place in the district, there have been no complaints of shortage of water with the exception of the parish of Preston Capes.

DRAINAGE.

Considerable drainage work to properties in the district has been made by the provision of new drainage systems also the improvement of existing drainage systems together with the necessary provision of suitable fittings.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the completion during the year of the Long Buckby Sewerage Scheme and Disposal Works, ten parishes now have sewerage schemes and works. The general sanitary condition of the parish of Long Buckby has been immensely improved as all drainage with few exceptions, has been connected to the new sewer during the year.

In the remaining parishes of the district, pail closets with some privies, form the chief lavatory accommodation. Many new water closets have been provided, together with a number of pail closets.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The Daventry Rural District being a reception area for evacuees, two lots were received in the area, 1,550 at Weedon Bec Station, and 94 at Daventry by 'bus from Northampton. The whole of the evacuees were readily and easily distributed to the different parishes of the District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 32 schools in the District, of which the capacity has been taxed considerably by the reception of the evacuee children. The sanitary accommodation and condition of the schools has been maintained satisfactorily.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 22 bakehouses in the district which have been visited and found to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and a regular lime washing of premises has been carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 96 premises on the register, one new factory being registered during the year, the remainder being chiefly workshops. A fair standard of cleanliness has been maintained during the year. Three premises have changed hands during the year, three lists of outworkers were received containing three names and addresses of outworkers carrying on the trade of shoemaking. These premises were visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SCAVENGING.

Public Refuse collection is carried out by annual contract in 18 parishes of the district, the refuse being collected in 16 parishes once every 2 weeks and in the other two parishes once each week. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal during the financial year was £705: 3: 11d.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The scheme for the salvage of waste materials as required by the direction of the Ministry of Supply has been in operation during the year. 170 tons of the materials covered by the directions to local authorities has been collected in the Daventry Rural District area and compares favourably with quantities collected in the Rural District of the same area. In this division every effort has been made to obtain the willing co-operation of the general public. There could, however, be considerable improvement by a greater effort being made by the general public to save such materials as are required to be collected.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

Frequent inspections have been made at the 27 butchers' shops and premises in the district during the year. No unsound meat was found exposed for sale. It has, however, been observed that the condition of the meat when it arrives at the local butchers' premises leaves much to be desired.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

SECTION 14.

The usual number of certificates of registration was granted.

SECTION 57.

23 licences were granted for slaughterhouses and one licence for a knacker's yard.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The annual number of slaughterman's licences was renewed, although slaughter of animals in the slaughter houses of the district under war conditions have ceased.

GAME ACT.

One licence under this Act was granted.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS, 1915-1936. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1931-1938.

The number of premises of milk producers on the registers have increased. A number of new cowsheds have been provided while a further number of premises have been re-conditioned to meet the requirements of the above Orders. Visits to farms and premises have been made as frequently as possible and the conditions observed were found to be maintained at a fairly good standard although more frequent visits are necessary to maintain the premises as they should be kept.

One supplementary licence to sell pasteurised milk in the district was renewed, also one dealer's licence to sell pasteurised milk in the district was renewed.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS ACT, 1928-1936.

All licences to store petroleum spirit under the above Act applied for were renewed.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (PART 10) CANAL BOATS.

Many visits to the canal wharf were made for the purpose of examining new canal boats built and for the purpose of examining for re-registration other boats at the wharf. A number of registrations were cancelled as received from other registration authorities.

HOUSING ACT, 1925 - 1936.

Little work under the Housing Act was carried out beyond the maintenance and repairs to houses by the remedying of defective and leaking roofs etc. to maintain houses in a dry condition.

HOUSING ACT, 1925-1936. (OVERCROWDING).

A number of cases of overcrowding was found during the year and each in turn was abated.



NATIONAL RAT WEEK.

There was no official National Rat Week as in former years, but efforts were made to keep down the rat infestation of premises to a minimum while the Council's own refuse tips and sewerage works were given regular attention.

STAFF.

Mr. Barry Lines, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant, joined His Majesty's Forces during the year and in consequence the work of the Department is carried on by myself and a typist, hence the outside work in the district has to some extent been curtailed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. KIRTON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

